

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 10-20 and 22-66 remain pending. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-38, 49-51 and 53-66 had been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Jayaraman (USPN 5,755,781). Independent claims 1, 20, 53, 58 and 61 have been amended to more succinctly claim the invention and more specifically, so that all claims specify that the struts of the central ring are to define a zig-zag pattern. In the interpreting Fig. 9 of the cited reference, the Examiner had asserted in the Advisory Action that the strut pattern of the central section includes the "W" or "M" shaped connectors of the adjacent ring structure. It is respectfully submitted that in specifying that the cylindrical ring of the central section is to be defined by a zig-zag strut pattern, anticipation is clearly avoided.

Moreover, since the cited reference does not rely on a cylindrical ring defined by a zig-zag pattern of struts, the parallel struts of the cited reference cannot possibly impart the same performance characteristics to a stent that the central section of the present invention is capable of. A longitudinal structure has no hoop strength which is necessary for providing support to a vessel's walls while promoting cell growth where needed (page 2, line 25 – page 3, line 3). It is respectfully submitted that obviousness is therefore also avoided.

Claims 39 and 40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Jayaraman. In view of the non-obviousness of underlying independent claim 20 as was

argued above, it is respectfully submitted that all claims depending therefrom similarly avoid obviousness.

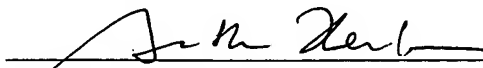
Claims 41-48 and 52 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Jayaraman. In view of the non-obviousness of underlying independent claims 20 and 49 as was argued above, it is respectfully submitted that all claims depending therefrom similarly avoid obviousness.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully urged that all of the present claims of the application are patentable and in a condition for allowance. The undersigned attorney can be reached at (310) 824-5555 to facilitate prosecution of this application, if necessary.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, applicant earnestly believes the application to now be in condition for allowance and respectfully requests that it be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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